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REMARKS

Claim amendments

Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to correct errors noted therein by applicant. In particular, the last two sections of original claim 12 should have been numbered separately as dependent claims. As such, these sections have been removed from claim 12 resulting in new claims 17 and 18. Original claim 13 was intended, and has been amended, to depend from that claim now numbered as claim 18. New claims 19 to 23 have been added to depend from claim 12.

Election

Applicant elects with traverse Group V of the claims, now including claims 12, 13 and 17 to 23. This election is made without prejudice to filing a divisional application at a later date directed to the subject matter of any non-elected claims.

The restriction requirement is submitted to be improper because the subcombinations are not entirely "independent and distinct" from each other, as evidenced by the identical classifications assigned to them. While the subcombinations are useable separately, they are all aspects of the same invention and very closely related. In particular, as indicated by the Examiner, all of the groups are classified in class 123, subclass 3. Because of their identical classification, it appears that the search required for each group would be identical to that required for each other group and will be conducted through the same body of art. Thus, it is submitted that the inclusion of all groups in the same application should not require excessive searching.

If the Examiner does not agree, it is submitted that various of the groups identified by the Examiner are so close that there is clearly no requirement for different searches. For example, Groups I and II are each related to a hydrogen generating system with an electrolyte level monitoring device and Groups III, V and VI are each related to a hydrogen generating system with a power control feature.

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In view of the foregoing, the applicant requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn or reframed for some or all of the groups upon reconsideration.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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